Middle School Good Times

Volume 23 #2 Paw Paw Middle School $.50/$2.50

CONCERT SUPER WED.

The choir concert was held Wed. night for parents and Thursday morning for students.

The sixth grade sang "Christmas! Christmas!", "Carol of the Drums", and "Rockin around the Christmas Tree". Seventh graders sang "Ding Dong!", "Merrily on High", "Carol of the Bells", "Peace Peace", and "It's Christmas".

The eighth graders , including some seventh graders, sang "Sing a Glad Noel", "We Need a Little Christmas", and "Celebrate the King." The high schoolers sang "Caroling,. Caroling," "Rejoice and Sing Noel", "Born Today" and "Sing Noel".

The concert was concluded with "We Wish You a Merry Christmas". by h. anderson

HOLIDAY HOP HAPPY ONE

The Christmas season dance on the 13th is traditionally seen as a snow fest . This year it was called the Holiday Hop.

It began at 6:30 and was a dress-up occasion. Crowned king and queen were Katie Anderson and Chris Veley. Prince and Princess were Diana Garcia and Rich Rennhack.

MR.WILSON'S SECRET IS OUT... HE'S ST. NICK! r.vesey/l.ferrari

In a special interview for the Good Times, Mr. Wilson admitted that while he wasn't Santa , he was indeed St. Nick.

R&L: Do you like the North Pole, Mr. W.?
S.N. Sometimes. Yes.
R/L: How many elves do you have?
S.N.: I have 28000.
R/L: How old is the oldest one?
S.N.: She is 26,000 years old. Her name is Sparky. (see back pages for her picture.)
R/L: How do you get from house to house so fast?
S.N.: My reindeer are really good.
R/L.: Did you teach them to fly?
S.N.: Yes but I had a lot of help from all my old reindeer.
R/L: Thank you for your time, Saint Nick.

WHERE WE SPENT TURKEY DAY- by a. trowbridge

Surveying ten people, I found out that 30% would be at grandparents', 20% at aunts and uncles' and half would be at home.

MEET THE NEW LIBRARY LADY by s. quade and e. oakleaf

Ms. Williams is the new library aide, replacing Mrs. Nufer who is now in Black River's office.

Ms. Williams has a three-year old son. She has no pets.

We asked when she decided to be a librarian. She said," I didn't. It is a convenient job while working on my bachelor's degree." She wants to be a C.P.A...certified public accountant

Since she works, goes to classes and takes care of her son, she

really doesn't have any spare time. If she gets time, she likes to ride bikes, play hockey and baseball She likes the Red Wings team..

She went to school here at PPMS. Her favorite subject was math..

She was in the army for three years. (cool huh?) She lives in Paw Paw but wants to move when she "grows up." Right now she is attending Davenport College.

IT'S CHRISTMAS TIME

by n. o'keefe

It's Christmas Time
I can tell.
The trees are up and decorated
Shining through the windows.
The wreathes are hung
With fresh snow falling
Children are playing and sliding.
Presents are neatly stacked
Under the tree.
Making children wait and
Wonder what
Santa will bring them
Christmas eve.
It's Christmas time again.
I can tell.

WHEN SNOW DIES

k. davidson

Snow being born
Is a beautiful sight.
Look out your window
a blanket of white.
Just like humans
Snow grows old
It melts and dies
When the sun is bold.
At first it gets dirty
And then it grows hard
And when the sun comes out
It starts looking bizarre.
It. looks old when splattered by cars.
It forms wrinkles
Grey with scars.
And then one day it will disappear,
Leaving sad children
For another whole year.
I don't know here it goes
To heaven I suppose.
That is one things about
Snow that nobody knows.

B'BALL BOUNCES INTO SEASON

Coaching the already underway season are Dave Smith and Mick Veley for the eighth grade.

Eighth graders on the roster include Jason Anderson, Gary Arrans, Jim Barnhouse, Ryan Begnoche, Chris Cannon, Andrew Dahms, Randy Duncan, Chawn Guernsey, Mike Haught, Damar Huff, Alan Collins, Andrew Mitchell, Ryan Shannon, Nick Sinnett, Andrew Sitar, Ryan Tapper, Dirk Terpstra, Paul Tessar, Nate VanLoon, Jon Ayres, Landry Boysen, Matt Campbell, Chris DeRight, Kyle Hess, Bryan Jennings, Jason Lee, Josh Meyers. Dusty Mount, Juan Seidel, Ben Smith, Rob Suski, Craig Tapper, Chris Veley, and Steve Wolownik.

Seventh graders out for basketball include Clay Stull, Dexter Fossitt, Tom Kolenko, Nate Carr, Nate Offord, Matt Bass, Joihn Hopson, Ted Crook, Josh Kennedy, Evan Jordan, Shawn Lietzau, Jason Glidden, Nate Maxwell, Kevin Mattison, Rich Rennhack, Eric Pasman, Matt Bailly, Dustin Messer, Casey Cooper, Tony LeDuc, Andy Goldberg, Corey Aldreich, Eric Vollrath, Tony Frego, Drew Zolp.

WHAT DO YOU WANT FOR CHRISTMAS ?

Carrie Swinehart said, "a Cabbage Patch Doll and a Barbie." Sophia Swinehart wanted," A doll house." Nick Sinnett wanted,"A personal body guard (I'm a whimp.)"

KatrinaDavidson said,"Bryan White." Matt CAmpbell wanted," Hot Wheels micro." Jessica Ross said," A Beach style Baribie and a bunch of clothes."

Lindsey Hauch wanted," candy and clothes." Nikki O'Keefe wanted,"money." Alicia McConnell wanted," a stereo." Lora Opalka would like "money" as does Heather Thornberg.

Kelly Baskin wanted,"Bryan White C.D." Josh Meyers would like "Clothes." Jenny Sargent wanted a "CD Walkman." Mike Haught wanted "an auto-coker paintball gun."

Kasie Wilson wanted a"CD boombox." Matt Campbell, on the other hand, wanted "his two front teeth." Emily Pasman wanted a" color tv and vcr."

Angie Zahringer wanted a"Manny Fernandez jersey." Katie Hughes wanted"new skis." Catherine Walker wanted " walkie talkie." while Jackie Winnell wanted " clothes." Jason Motter summed up all the comments by saying,"Anything! Anything."

FREEDOM OF RUNNING

by a. medema

In the night
Your flapping mane
Your pounding hooves
We hear again.
Now we see it
Your swishing tail
In the air
It's like a sail.
Here you come
Very fast
Running by
You go on past.

MR TOPP SUBJECT OF INTERVIEW

Our reporters asked Mr. Topp a number of questions. Here is what he said.

His favorite subject other than science is math. He loves to hunt and fish. When asked if he liked teaching, he replied, "most of the time."

The sports he likes to watch and play are boxing, football, baseball, basketball and golf.

He has two children, both sons. His favorite book is Lonesome Dove.

After school activities for Mr. Topp include running, lifting weights and coaching baseball.

HANUKKAH -A DECEMBER HOLIDAY

Time to gut the Thanksgiving turkey and start with potato pancakes. Don't forget the chocolate coins. Latkes and menorahs? I think so.

According to legend, the Jewish Maccabees lit the temple's eternal light from a jar of oil that only had enough fuel for one day. Surprisingly, the light burned for eight days until more oil was found. This is the miracle and the reason why the menorahs (candle holders

with eight candles plus a special central candle) are lit for eight days.

Jewish children started receiving gifts on the eight days many years ago. The time for Hanukkah is often close to Christmas and the gifts are part of both seasons.

by r.vesey and l. ferrari

HOLIDAYS by a. medema

Holidays come
Every year
And they celebrated
Far and near.
Families celebrate
All different ways
And Holidays come
On all different days.

WHAT IS GOOFY?

Reporters Merry Roberts, Ramsey Beyer and Frances Clare wanted to know so they asked lots of students for their opinion.

If Mickey's a mouse, Donald's a duck, Pluto's a dog, then what is Goofy? We asked most of the sixth graders, a lot of eighth graders and barely any of the seventh graders. Here's what they concluded.

Out of the 62 people we surveyed, 22 people said he was a cow.. 23 thought he was a dog. Three people thought he might be a walrus. Two thought he was a thing. One person said he was a character that no one can decide on, and another person said he was a rat.

Six thought he could be a cow/dog mix. One thought he could be a walrus/ dog mix. Someone said maybe he's a horse. One thought a goose and two thought he was a hippo.

Philip Sang thought Goofy has a pet dog so how could he be a dog? Mrs. Kalisiak said that he really doesn't look like anything. Amy Pickens said that Goofy is a just a person dressed up in a Goofy suit

We found out that Goofy is supposed to be a basset hound, according to the Disney people. He was the human version of Pluto.

WHAT'S HOT in CLOTHES, LINGO and MUSIC...

Hot!!!	Not!!!
baggy jeans	sagging jeans
Nike	L.A. gear
contacts	glasses
clogs	boots
diamonds	hoop earrings
glitter on every thing .	little hearts
slammin'	dawg
jammin'	funky
Grease megamix	Alanis Morrisette
No doubt	TLC
No Diggity	Keith Sweat

ADVICE COLUMN NEEDS YOUR INPUT... example

DEAR BETTY BROWNIE,

I like this guy in 8th grade but I don't think he likes me back. We used to flirt a lot but now he just ignores me. What should I do?

lost heart

DEAR Lost heart,

We know how you feel. We suggest telling him how you feel by dropping subtle hints. Smile and look at him in the hall. Write back.

SKI CLUB NEWS
by k. hughes

Mrs. A. Smith is organizing the ski club for this winter. To join you don't even have to know how to ski.

The club gives you a chance to ski and take skiing lessons cheaper than the regular price. If you need more information, either talk to Mrs. Smith or the office.

LOSER JOKE of the MONTH
How do you get rid of a monster? Give him a map and tell him to get lost.

SLANG OF THE MONTH
1. Whatever
2. Loser times 2
3. My bad
4. L-7 wienee
5. Da bomb
6. fresh
7. Hi
8. to the bat cave
9. Merry Christmas
10. c-ya

h.streich, j. booth, n. o'keefe & c. marshall

MR. NILES: JANITOR

Mr. Niles was interviewed by Heather Galbraith and Kim Barnes.

Mr. Niles' favorite subject is gym. His favorite food is baked cod. His favorite book is Dick and Jane. He doesn't have any kids or pets.

He starts work at 6:30 in the morning and works until 3:00. His biggest complaint is that he has to work. We asked him if he liked picking up after us and he said, "It's something to do."

MIDDLE SCHOOL CADET BAND PLAYED DECEMBER 11 by m.t.

Middle School Cadet Band and the High School Symphony Band performed their Holiday '96 Concert before a full house.

The Cadet Band was praised for their rendition of "The Twelve Days of Instrumental Christmas." The highlight of the evening was the Symphony Band performing with the High School Choirs "The Hallelujah Chorus."

The Symphony Band appeared in their sharp new tuxedo uniforms.

After the concert, everyone enjoyed cookies and punch in the cafeteria.

The musicians were great, the music was great and the food was tasty. I pity the fool who didn't come to the concert.

SIXTH GRADE ICE CREAM...by m. zerbi

The 6th grade ice cream and movie night was really fun. For people who don't know how ice cream and movie night works, this is what we did. First we got our ice cream and ate in the cafeteria. Then we walked down to the movie theater with chaperones. Last we watched the movie Alaska.

We would like to thank the chaperones, the donations and especially Pam Kern who was in charge of all of this.

PADDLEBALL TOURNAMENT

A paddleball tournament was held for sixth graders in phys. ed

this semester.

Placing first in their respective hours were the following:

6th hour:1st place: Frances Clare and Neil Conway. 2nd place: Ashley Keenan and Shawn Wendall.

7th hour: 1st place: Kathryn Williams, Erik Modrzynski. 2nd place: Christine Cashen , Zach Tucker.

IDEAL CHRISTMAS GIFTS

.. Snow falling on Christmas Day
. Clueless Pen
. Your least favorite teacher gone for a day
. Tickle me Elmo.
Spam and an Orange Julius
Wheelchair Barbie
Toxic Waste Lunch Bag
Fugi vs. Dinosaurs video
Bob Dole in a Can
Moondog Action figures (now available...karate chop Dave)
A big blow-up Ross Perot.

WHERE'S MRS. NUFER?

by .c. byrd and p. sang

We interviewed Mrs. Nufer over at Black River, where she has transferred from our library.

We all thought it would be interesting to tell you the facts.

Mrs. Nufer missed reading the Good Times because she really enjoys Mrs. Swanson. She would like to subscribe to the Good Times.

She does miss everyone for the most part except for when there was a group of kids running up and down the hall yelling"I'm a bubble " over and over again.

She said if she could come back to the middle school, she couldn't make that decision. She loves it as much at Black River as she did at the middle school.

And the question that every body wanted to know is she is not a librarian at Black River. She is working in the office.

BUSINESS SUCCESS SEMINAR

by s. taylor

Hello, my name is Stephen Taylor and I'm 14 years old. A couple of years ago, people kept asking me what I wanted to do when I grew up. I told them I didn't know.

Just about a year ago I decided I wanted to be a realtor like my dad. Since I wanted to be a successful businessman, my dad took me to the Business Success Seminar 1996 in Grand Rapids. It was remarkable.

Zig Ziglar, Peter Lowe, Dan Jansen, Sparky Anderson, tom Hopkins, President Gerald Ford, Barbara Bush, James Henning , Paul Harvey and Dan Kennedy were the speakers. Millionaires. billionaires and famous people came from all over the world to share their success. All these people are extroverts. (outgoing people.)

At the same time these guys add humor to their speeches. They do it to help you remember what they said. Here's an example: "Because you know you're going to be dead a lot longer than you are alive, you should not neglect the spiritual side of your life."

In addition to learning to add humor to speaking, I learned a few

other tips. Zig Ziglar gave me these: Your vocabulary is very significant. The larger your vocabulary is, the higher up your IQ goes. If you're not as smart as you want to be, don't blame that failure on anybody. Failure is an event, not a person.

One speaker who was there was a world-winning speed skater, Dan Jansen. His idea of success is that if you learn from a situation, that is success.

In addition to his report here, Steve actually met many of these famous people. That in itself is quite an experience.

THE DAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
by j. shinabarger

Twas the day after Christmas when all through the house
was a powerful stench that killed my sweet mouse.
It came from the bathroom and lingered overhead
that made everyone want to go back to bed.
All the carefully hung stockings were ripped from their places
And torn into shred by hands and small faces.
The children are jumping on top of their beds,
While millions of caffeine particles dance in their heads.
With momma's kerchief knotted and my cap inside out
We knew the kids had been there, no doubt.
When out on the lawn arose such a clutter,
I threw open the shades and didn't have a shutter.
And what to my wondering eyes should appear
But my drunk aunt Bertha who called out for a beer.
I sprang from the window and bolted for the stairs,
Hopefully I'd get the door locked before she got there!
The door was slowly opening with Bertha right behind
And I screamed out to her "I've got my M-39!"
But of course she didn't understand and plowed through the door
While demanding I give her an apple core.
THAT was the last straw for my sanity was sure to go,
So I headed down the street to The Big Toe.
It was a family joint with a buffet and bar
Full of Christmas Scrooges- many with scars
And then who did I see sitting in the rear?
But that jolly old Santa with his not so little reindeer.
"Santa." I exclaimed."What's going on here?"
"I thought I'd relax in the crowd for anti-good-cheer."
"Why did you miss my house leaving chaos?" I screamed.
"You think your Christmas is hectic- try being me!"

SANTA CLAUS: ANOTHER VIEW
by d. terpstra

Santa Claus is very fat
He wears a jolly old red hat.
He makes the elves do all the work
Because he is a very big jerk. see p.8

SANTA: ANOTHER VIEW
continued
His eight reindeer suffer because of his lard
They have to work and fly real hard.
He only does his job on Christmas eve
He doesn't have his one pet peeve.
He never misses one of Mrs. Claus' meals,
And because he eats so much , his reindeer squeal.

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SANTA INTERVIEWED....k.baskin, j. sargent and k. hughes
(In case you wonder how we could cover so many Santas, think how many malls there are!)
J/k: How do you travel from the N.Pole to the mall every year?
S.: I take a flight from the Pole to the Kalamazoo Airport and walk to the mall from there...in disguise of course.
j/k: How did you get into the business?
S.: Hundreds of years ago I put in an application at Mickey D's and the next thing I knew I"m wrapping packages instead of burgers.
j/k:: How can you be in two malls (and maybe more) at once?
S: I have what is called "fake Santas". The elves make many of them and then we ship them off all over the world.
j/k: How is Mrs.Claus?
S: We are separated because she told me I wasn't working the elves hard enough and I didn't agree.
k: How do you get down people's chimneys?
S: I wiggle my nose and the rest is magic.
(Haven't you seen the Tim Allen movie?)
k:What do you do in your spare time?
S: I don't have much spare time because I make toys all year long.
j/k: Which is your favorite reindeer?
S: Don't really have a favorite. I like them all the same.

SANTA GIVES MORE INFO:
continued from page 8
j/k: What are your favorite colors?
S: This'll surprise you... red and green.
j/k Who's your favorite elf?
S: Bob, I guess, because his name is the same forward and backward.
j/k/k: Thanks for your time, Santa. We have to go. We have many other fake Santas to visit.

ANIMAL HOLIDAY STORIES
with many thanks to our readers for sharing their experiences.

Kelly Mapes shares: We bought lots of tinsel one year for my room. When we were getting everything out of the trunk, I set the bag of tinsel down and took some other stuff inside. When I was picking up the bag after ward, a little squirrel jumped out of the bag!

Andrea Bielang recalled: My dog knocked the Christmas tree over and then she drank the water.

Abby Tucker said: We had a popcorn string around our Christmas tree and when we went to school one day, my cat jumped onto the tree, trying to eat the popcorn. He tipped the tree over and landed in the presents.

Chris DeRight's story: My dog went out on the deck of my old house and fell on her(bottom) because of the ice. Jason Motter recalled : My dog ate all our Christmas cookies. Since then, she hasn't liked Christmas very much... (she got sick the next day and threw up.)

Damar Huff recalled: My dog Blaze knocked over the tree because she was trying to scratch her back with the needles.

Jim Barnhouse's dog knocked their tree over too. Says he: The dog was scared of the tree when we first brought it home. (Sounds like he had good cause to be!)

Ken Jones said: When my sister had a cat named Boots, he would knock over the tree and take all the decorations off every year.

Chawn Guernsey recalled: One time a t Christmas we were watching tv and my cat jumped at the Santa Claus blimp in the parade and a candle on the edge of the tv fell on its head.

Christina Burke remembered: My cat has a furry little toy mouse he's crazy about. I threw it for him and by accident it landed in the Christmas tree so he climbed the tree to get it.

Nathan Maxwell said: When my birds hear Christmas music they start to chirp.

Many of you shared this story that Heather Galbraith mentioned: My cat tries to eat the tree and the tinsel... (with varying effects.)

Amanda Butler said: My cat runs under the Christmas tree and then lies down. A few seconds later she'll run out from underneath and hit as many bells as she can reach. She'll do it over and over again til she's tired of it.

Rich Rennhack's parrot sings Jingle Bells.

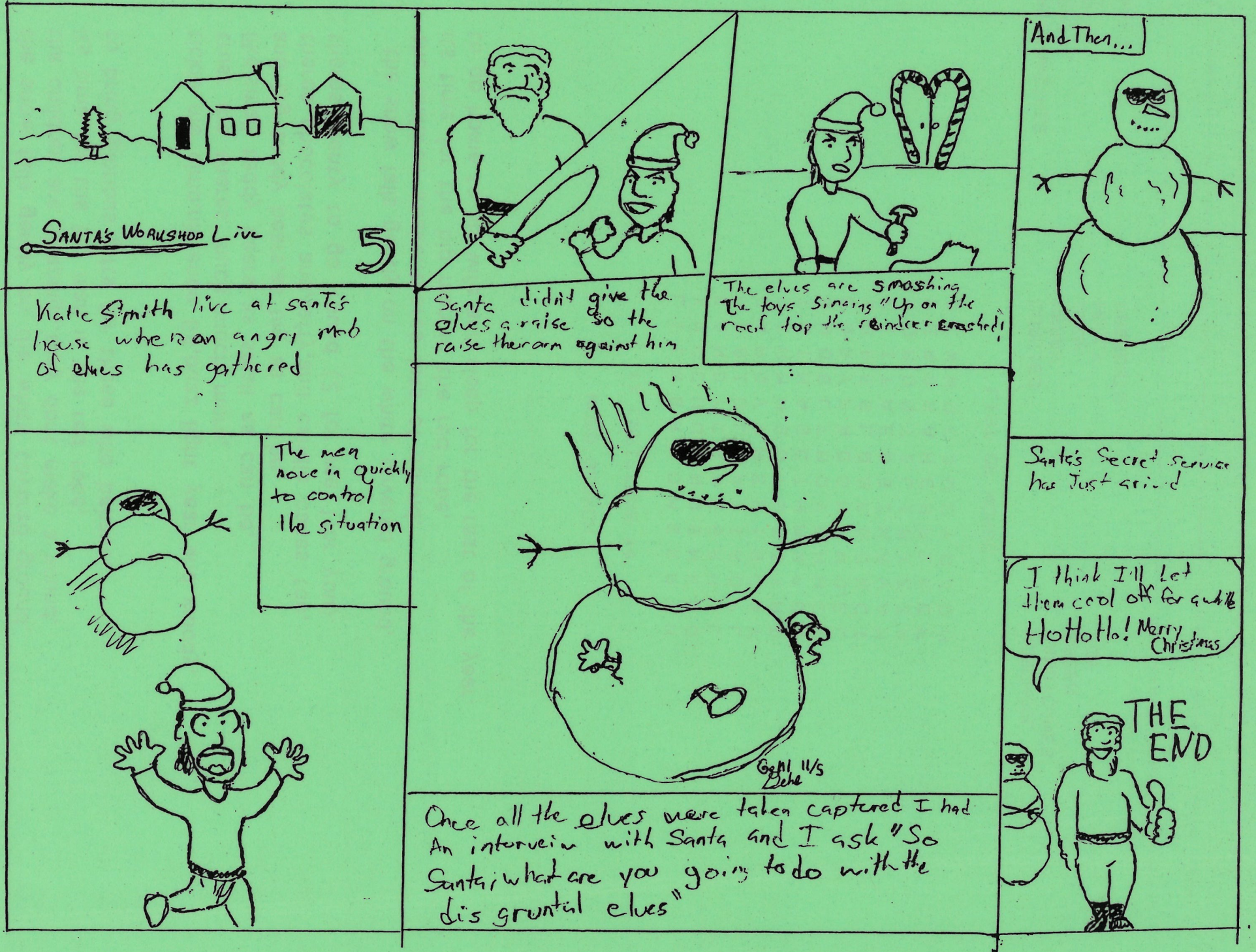
MORE ANIMAL STORIES

James Merwin recalled: My cat loves the bows for the presents and he finds our Christmas box with the paper and bows every year before we do.. So every year we find chewed-up bows.

Amanda Hudson had several stories: Our dogs wimper and bark if they don't get a present. Our cats blink their eyes every time the lights blink on the tree.

Nate VanLoon's dog tried to drink the water from the tree stand and the tree fell over. Then she got tangled in the lights at 2:00 a.m. and my family woke up to a dog wound in Christmas lights and tinsel.

Katie Hughes cat Cammy got in the dryer to sleep and my mom turned it on. One hour later we heard noise from the dryer, opened it up and there was my cat with its hair sticking straight up.


SANTA'S WORLSHOP Live
5
Katie Smith live at santa's house where an angry mob of elves has gathered
Santa didnt give the elves a raise so the raise their arm against him
The elves are smashing the toys singing "Up on the roof top the reindeer crashed!
And Then...
Santa's Secret service has just arived
The men move in quickly to control the situation
I think I'll let them cool off for awhile HoHoHo! Merry Christmas
THE END
Once all the elves were taken captered I had An interveiw with Santa and I ask "So Santa, what are you going to do with the dis grountal elves"

Christmas

the snow falls gently on the white covered ground,
the children are sleeping...they dont make a sound,
its time for the big man in the red robe,
to bring glorious gifts for those who behave.

tickle me elmo,nintendo 64,buzz light year and woody,
trust me theres much much more,
like,small teddy bears as small as can be,
and big teddy bears,as big as can be,
theres chocolates and,taffy,and candie canes too,
theres plenty to go 'round (2 for me 1for you).

the snow falls gently on the white covered ground,
the children awake..theres lots of sound,
its time for the big man in the red robe,
to go home to his wife and sleep for the rest of the year.

WORD SEARCH

** CHRISTMAS **

L I I W B R B O M E R R Y H
X V C C U U X N Q S N K C O
C A N D Y C A N E S R H N L
H D B Z O L S A S I R O P L
C A P Q Y V R E D I S C A Y
S Z H M H S O T S C Z X M D
T A T N A S C T H M W P G S
N W O S L F M O Y O H H C Y
E Q R Y P A O G N T W O E L
S B B E S L Q S F G O W C I
E I I T A E B S Z K R V A M
R O R Q G T Z L I B X E Z A
P E R B S A H E N P L K E F
E K W W Q C S U C Y O J D N

LIST OF WORDS

CHRISTMASTREE
WREATH
SANTA
RED
FAMILY
COOKIES
MERRY
SNOW
HOLLY
PRESENTS
NOSCHOOL
CANDYCANES
GREEN
JOY

** CHRISTMAS **

Solution

```
. . . . . . . . M E R R Y H
. . . . . . . . . . . . C O
C A N D Y C A N E S . H N L
. . . . . . . . . . R O . L
. . . . . . R E D I S . . Y
S . . . . . . . S C . . . .
T A T N A S . T H . W . . .
N W . . . . M O . O . . C Y
E . R . . A O . N . . O . L
S . . E S L . S . G O . . I
E . . T A . . . . K R . . M
R . R . . T . . I . . E . A
P E . . . . H E . . . . E F
E . . . . . S . . Y O J . N
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by Holly Streich
Noel Russell

LIST OF WORDS

CHRISTMASTREE
WREATH
SANTA
RED
FAMILY
COOKIES
MERRY
SNOW
HOLLY
PRESENTS
NOSCHOOL
CANDYCANES
GREEN
JOY